

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A truck bed for a pickup truck comprising:

a metal support structure, the metal support structure being in a fixed position relative to a pickup truck;

5 a shell fixedly supported by the metal support structure and configured to integrally define a portion of a first chamber and a portion of a second chamber, the first chamber being adjacent to the second chamber at an interface, and the first and second chambers being disposed substantially beneath a plane defined by a cargo carrying floor, the cargo carrying floor being integrally provided by the truck bed;

10 a first closure member including a first support surface, the first closure member associated with the shell and being moveable between a first position in which the first support surface is substantially coplanar with the plane and is configured to support cargo directly above the first chamber, and a second position in which the first closure member is at least partially removed to provide access to the first chamber from above the plane; and

15 a second closure member associated with the shell and including a second support surface for supporting cargo directly above the second chamber, the second support surface being substantially coplanar with the plane, and the second chamber being configured to provide a storage location, the storage location being configured to substantially surround an entire spare tire for a pickup truck directly beneath the
20 second closure member.

2. The truck bed of claim 1 wherein the metal support structure is integral with a unibody of a pickup truck.

3. The truck bed of claim 1 wherein the first chamber is joined with the second chamber at the interface.

4. The truck bed of claim 3 wherein the interface is constrictive.

5. The truck bed of claim 3 wherein the shell includes a first plurality of surfaces defining the first chamber and a second plurality of surfaces defining the

second chamber, and at least one of the first plurality of surfaces is not substantially coplanar with any of the second plurality of surfaces.

6. The truck bed of claim 1 wherein the first closure member is secured with respect to the shell.

7. The truck bed of claim 6 wherein the first closure member and the shell are connected by at least one hinge.

8. The truck bed of claim 6 further comprising a securement mechanism moveable between locked and unlocked positions for selectively locking the first closure member in the first position, and an opening mechanism for moving the securement mechanism between the locked and unlocked positions, the securement mechanism and the opening mechanism both being disposed entirely below the first support surface when the first closure member is in the first position, and the opening mechanism comprising at least one of a handle and a key cylinder.

9. The truck bed of claim 3 wherein the second closure member is fixedly secured with respect to the shell.

10. The truck bed of claim 9 wherein the second closure member is removably fixedly secured with respect to the shell.

11. The truck bed of claim 10 wherein bolts are provided to connect the second closure member with respect to the shell.

12. The truck bed of claim 3 wherein the interface comprises an opening dimensioned to permit the passage of a spare tire from the first chamber into the second chamber.

13. The truck bed of claim 12 further comprising a tray configured to support a spare tire in sliding engagement with respect to the shell in order to facilitate easier movement of a spare tire through the interface between the first chamber and the second chamber.

14. The truck bed of claim 1 wherein the second closure member is subjacently reinforced by at least one support brace disposed between the shell and the second closure member.

15. The truck bed of claim 14 wherein the support brace is at least partially formed of metal.

16. The truck bed of claim 1 wherein the shell is at least partially formed of plastic.

17. The truck bed of claim 1 wherein the shell is at least partially formed of metal.

18. The truck bed of claim 1 wherein the shell is integral with at least a portion of a bed floor.

19. The truck bed of claim 1 further comprising at least one side member.

20. The truck bed of claim 1 further comprising a headboard member.

21. The truck bed of claim 1 wherein the first closure member further comprises at least one support panel.

22. A truck bed for a pickup truck comprising:

a metal support structure, the metal support structure being in a fixed position relative to a pickup truck;

5 a shell fixedly supported by the metal support structure and configured to integrally define a portion of a first chamber and a portion of a second chamber, the first chamber joined with the second chamber at a constrictive interface, and the first and second chambers being disposed substantially beneath a plane defined by a cargo carrying floor, the cargo carrying floor being integrally provided by the truck bed;

10 a first closure member including a first support surface, the first closure member associated with the shell and being moveable between a first position in which the first support surface is substantially coplanar with the plane and is configured to support cargo directly above the first chamber, and a second position in

which the first closure member is at least partially removed to provide access to the first chamber from above the plane; and

- 15 a second closure member associated with the shell and including a second support surface for supporting cargo directly above the second chamber, the second support surface being substantially coplanar with the plane.

23. The truck bed of claim 22 wherein the metal support structure is integral with a unibody of a pickup truck.

24. The truck bed of claim 22 wherein the first closure member is secured with respect to the shell.

25. The truck bed of claim 24 wherein the first closure member and the shell are connected by at least one hinge.

26. The truck bed of claim 24 further comprising a securement mechanism moveable between locked and unlocked positions for selectively locking the first closure member in the first position, and an opening mechanism for moving the securement mechanism between the locked and unlocked positions, the securement mechanism and the opening mechanism both being disposed entirely below the first support surface when the first closure member is in the first position, and the opening mechanism comprises at least one of a handle and a key cylinder.
- 5 27. The truck bed of claim 22 wherein the second chamber is configured to provide a storage location, the storage location being configured to substantially surround an entire spare tire for a pickup truck directly beneath the second closure member.

28. The truck bed of claim 27 wherein the interface comprises an opening dimensioned to permit the passage of a spare tire from the first chamber into the second chamber.

29. The truck bed of claim 22 wherein the second closure member is fixedly secured with respect to the shell.

30. The truck bed of claim 29 wherein the second closure member is removably fixedly secured with respect to the shell.

31. The truck bed of claim 30 wherein bolts are provided to connect the second closure member with respect to the shell.

32. A pickup truck having a truck bed, the truck bed comprising:

a metal support structure, the metal support structure being integral with a unibody of a pickup truck;

5 a shell fixedly supported by the metal support structure and configured to integrally define a portion of a first chamber and a portion of a second chamber, the first chamber joined with the second chamber at a constrictive interface, the interface comprising an opening dimensioned to permit the passage of a spare tire for a pickup truck from the first chamber into the second chamber, and the first and second chambers being disposed substantially beneath a plane defined by a cargo carrying 10 floor, the cargo carrying floor being integrally provided by the truck bed;

15 a first closure member including a first support surface, the first closure member being secured with respect to the shell by at least one hinge and being moveable between a first position in which the first support surface is substantially coplanar with the plane and is configured to support cargo directly above the first chamber, and a second position in which the first closure member is at least partially removed to provide access to the first chamber from above the plane; and

20 a second closure member being fixedly secured with respect to the shell and including a second support surface for supporting cargo directly above the second chamber, the second support surface being substantially coplanar with the plane, and the second chamber being configured to provide a storage location, the storage location being configured to substantially surround an entire spare tire for a pickup truck directly beneath the second closure member.

33. The truck bed of claim 32 further comprising a securement mechanism moveable between locked and unlocked positions for selectively locking the first closure member in the first position, and an opening mechanism for moving the

5 securement mechanism between the locked and unlocked positions, the securement mechanism and the opening mechanism both being disposed entirely below the first support surface when the first closure member is in the first position, and the opening mechanism comprising at least one of a handle and a key cylinder.

34. The truck bed of claim 32 further comprising a tray configured to support a spare tire in sliding engagement with respect to the shell in order to facilitate easier movement of a spare tire through the interface between the first chamber and the second chamber.

35. The truck bed of claim 32 wherein the first closure member further comprises at least one support panel.

36. The truck bed of claim 32 wherein the second closure member is subjacently reinforced by at least one support brace disposed between the shell and the second closure member.